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It is a good deal like the pot calling the kettle black to have Congressman Longworth call Congressman Mann a reactionary.

All the cases of "sleeping sickness" are not confined around Burlington; there are some bad cases right here in Barre, the chief manifestation being in the morning.

Mathias Erzberger is reminded that it is not for the German national assembly, or the German people, to say what they will accept from the allies in the shape of a treaty of peace. This is not a treaty by negotiation.

"Winter among the mountains" a Vermont hotel is advertising in a Boston newspaper this week. It is not easy to find winter in Vermont and has not been easy for some weeks. This has been more like a pseudo-summer.

When the Germans send their gold to Brussels to pay for the allies' food it would not be surprising if there were present a number of persons who go under the name of assayers. Of course, the gold could not be a scrap of paper but it might be something else.

Vermont has her good points, after all. She led the country in January in per capita war savings stamp sales.—Manchester Union.

You're right, neighbor; and one of them is to point the way for some other commonwealths stumbling about in the dark.

As if not satisfied with one wild, saturnal vote in favor of license, St. Johnsbury is now getting ready to vote whether it will deal in "hard stuff" or just the lighter kind which enables the tippler to take more before getting the same effect. St. Johnsbury can't get adjusted to its new state of mind.

The influenza-pneumonia epidemic has broken out in virulent form in the southern part of Vermont, Bellows Falls being one of the places most seriously affected by the disease. It is a warning to all other communities to take care of the first cases of the disease to appear in their midst. Strict quarantine is the only way to prevent a general spread of the disease.

The decision of the war department to embark troops from other points than Antwerp in order to avoid the danger of floating mines in the North sea finds immediate approval among the people of the United States. The boys have been through enough dangers on the battle field in time of warfare without subjecting them to any possibilities of death in the homecoming.

The New Jersey State Federation of Labor and State Building Trades Council dignified themselves immeasurably when they decided in joint action at Newark, N. J., recently to repudiate the "no beer, no work" idea as a basis for a strike. As the secretary of the former organization said in reference to the matter, the use of that idea as a reason for quitting work would place labor of New Jersey in a ridiculous light.

When a Tilton, N. H., woman fell on the sidewalk, the physician who was called said she had sustained a fractured collar bone, several fractured ribs and had received other injuries. When the woman was taken to a hospital it was found that aside from having no fracture of the collar bone, no fractured ribs and no serious injuries, the first diagnosis was all right. In cases of disagreement of physicians, choose the lesser calamity.

The ex-kaiser's log-sawing operations indicate that he would not have made a howling success had he been obliged to earn his own living instead of ruling by "divine right" over sixty or more millions of subjects who permitted themselves to be moved about like pawns. His work since being virtually imprisoned at Amerongen shows him to be a rank incompetent. By the way, it would be interesting to know what the German people think about being hoodwinked over this "divine right" myth.

A state appropriation of \$300,000 from Massachusetts would make a fitting celebration in honor of the return of the 26th division to the United States; but the wonder is that Massachusetts does not ask the other New England states to contribute something toward the cost of the celebration, even though the main events of the welcome are to be staged in and around the State House in Boston. That is not saying that the other New England states would be prepared to assist in the financing of the Boston arrangements, but the wonder is that Massachusetts should apparently be willing to shoulder the whole burden.

To have gone through all the dangers of the war and to have "carried on" so skillfully as to have become an "ace" in the air service, only to come home and be killed in a practice spin in an airplane 75 feet up is not exactly going from the

sublime to the ridiculous, but it does typify the vagaries of chance. Major David McK. Peterson, who had sailed into the empyrean and boldly attacked the German foe, met his fate through the fickleness of chance while engaged on a peaceful little spin far from the scene of hostile encounter.

MARINES AND THE U. S. ARMY.

From the standpoint of the Japanese nation it will make no difference whether it were U. S. marines or U. S. regulars who were concerned in the trouble in Tien Tsin, where the Americans are alleged to have attacked all the Japanese they could get their hands on; but it is to be noted that a studied effort has been made in the United States to differentiate between the two units of service representing the United States government, the marines being very jealous of their reputation for close adherence to the international regulations as well as for fighting qualities. We are not prepared to assert that the marines represent a higher type of soldier than the regulars in the United States army but we do know that they have been placed in some very delicate, as well as dangerous, situations and have acquitted themselves with distinct credit to the service; so there is perhaps some excuse for efforts of the officers in the marine corps service who desire to have it known that marines were not concerned in the Tien Tsin affair. However, as we have already stated, the other nations do not recognize any difference in the branches of the United States service when they have a grievance, or alleged grievance, to present to the United States government; and there will be no little niceties of distinction when the Japanese government comes to take up the present affair with Washington.

CURRENT COMMENT

Increasing Teachers' Pay.

The letter of State Commissioner Hillebrand to school superintendents published in yesterday's Reformer emphasizes the seriousness of conditions in Vermont and undoubtedly will begin an era of increased salaries for school teachers and instructors. Evidently the head of the educational department resorts to this method to insure a sufficient teaching force for the public schools of the state. He must also realize that such a general and literal increase in compensation will greatly increase the expenses of schools, probably the largest expense of any department of the state government.

School teaching has never commanded large salaries, perhaps never will, but there are some things to be considered before increasing the expenses of this department of government. It is true that during the war better paying positions have been offered to school teachers of all classes. Some of the younger men have been called to military service and to fill positions created by war work. Women teachers have been much in demand for office positions in Washington, positions created by the war and open during the continuance of the war. These conditions have created a serious shortage in the teaching force, a shortage that probably is in its most acute stage today.

The government no longer is calling for young men to fight or for additional women for Washington offices. It is reasonable to expect that within the next few months hundreds of thousands of young men and women who have been employed by the government will be discharged from such service. They must turn to the occupation for which they have been trained for future employment because the employers of the coun-

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try are no longer forced to employ untrained and unfit. It might be wise for school authorities to wait for this change rather than swell the expense column by paying war-time salaries. Industry cannot continue war salaries or wages and our educational authorities should not assume them at this time.

Furthermore, good pay does not insure good teachers. There was a time 30 and 40 years ago when all young girls were ambitious to "get a school" to teach because they could earn more money teaching than in any other way and many a misfit got into the school room through the "pull" of a friend. It is possible that too liberal increase in salaries at the time may revive the "pull" to a greater extent than it will competent instructors.

While the need of more salary for teachers is recognized, we feel it is an important time to grant increases. The expenses of government are at the maximum and taxes are increased each year to meet them. Unusual expenses connected with the war must be met now and the teachers should wait until the state and towns are a little better prepared to take care of increased expenses before demanding more pay. It will be good business for the department of education to treat the demands of teachers as a business proposition and not try to carry war-time compensation into the peace period we are entering.—Brattleboro Reformer.

"FLU" IN BELLOW FALLS.

Four Deaths in One Day and a Number of People Are Seriously Ill.

Bellows Falls, March 18.—The influenza situation here is not improving. Many people are seriously ill and four deaths occurred Sunday. New cases are reported every day. Schools will not be reopened this week. Miss Mabel Emerson of Bradford, teacher of the grammar school, is one of those seriously ill.

The deaths on Sunday were those of Mrs. Dennis Gallagher, aged 23, who leaves her husband and six children, the youngest being one day old at the time

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of her death; Mrs. Charles Geer, 23, who leaves her husband and an infant daughter; Mrs. Preston M. Sweet, 35; and Clement S. Miner, 17-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Miner, who had pneumonia, following the influenza. He was a member of the junior class of the high school. Besides his parents, he is survived by three brothers, one of whom is very ill with the influenza. His grandmother, Mrs. Justina Jaquith, died on March 14 and there was a double funeral this morning at the house.

Still a Secret.

"Oh, dear, I feel so miserable."
"What's the matter?"
"Miss Gabbine told me a secret and I can't remember what it was."—Boston Transcript.

Taking a Chance.

He wed a munition girl, although
He doubted he ought to risk it;
For a girl, you know, can make the
dough
Who cannot make a biscuit.
—Boston Transcript.

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